



Connecticut



The potential to grow and make innovative products in rural America is limitless. Since 2009, the Obama Administration has made targeted investments to help rural businesses grow. Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's projects in affordable housing, energy efficiency, roads and bridges, and internet access, coupled with loans and grants for rural businesses, the Administration has helped to attract and retain a talented rural labor force, improve connectivity and access to information, move products to market, and make rural communities competitive—**ultimately supporting strong local economies and expanded opportunity for rural Connecticut families.**

MADE IN RURAL CONNECTICUT

Ace Begonias of Woodbridge, Connecticut, produce one of the largest lines of flowering plants in the region and make weekly deliveries throughout CT, MA, and NY. With USDA funding, the company installed LED lighting in their greenhouses, reducing energy costs and increasing production output.



GROWING EXPORTS

In 2012, exports of farm and ranch products alone contributed **\$205 million** to **Connecticut's** economy. The President's Made In Rural America initiative helps rural businesses capitalize on demand for American-made products and identify ways they can participate in global markets.



SUPPORT FOR RURAL BUSINESSES

USDA has made investments to help **46 rural businesses in Connecticut thrive and grow.**

USDA investments in everything from advanced biofuels manufacturing facilities to food hubs help businesses, many of them small, capitalize on emerging markets for rural-made products. **In rural America, small businesses support one in three jobs.**



RENEWING RURAL MANUFACTURING

The rural economy includes more than products that come from farms.

Rural manufacturing supports 9,958 jobs in Connecticut. USDA has invested **nearly \$1 million** to help rural manufacturers in **Connecticut** increase production and capacity.



HOUSING

Access to safe, affordable housing is critical to maintaining the rural labor force. USDA has helped **3,996 Connecticut families** purchase or repair homes.



WATER

USDA has invested **\$108.6 million** to support efficient water supply, treatment and storage facilities, and wastewater treatment systems. That investment has **improved the health of thousands of rural Connecticut families** who now have access to clean water and reliable sanitation.